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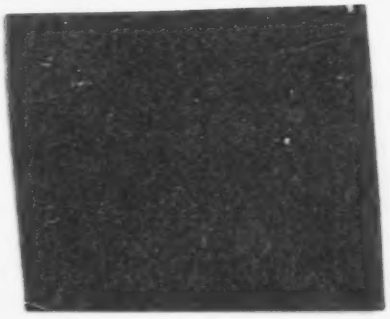
26 February 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
First session
Vienna, 26-27 March 1997



ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda*

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Annotations

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution XXXVIII, decided to keep under consideration the proposal to convene an international conference to review progress made by Governments and the United Nations system in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1995/40, recommended that the General Assembly and the Commission give priority to considering such a proposal. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/148, requested the Commission to discuss the proposal fully.

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*The General Assembly in its resolution 51/64, section IV, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and possible outcome of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control (A/51/469) and invited the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to bear in mind the recommendations contained in that report.

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On the recommendation of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1996/17. In that resolution, the Council, convinced that the holding of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the subject could make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the actions of the United Nations and its Member States in the fight against that global threat, decided to recommend to the General Assembly to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities.

The General Assembly in its resolution 51/64, section IV, decided to convene, for three days in June 1998, a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs. In the same section of that resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should act as the preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly and that the preparatory body should be open-ended in its deliberations, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations and of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice.

The preparatory body is expected to meet in 1997 and 1998, during the fortieth and forty-first sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1997/208, decided that the Commission at its fortieth session should devote two days of its eight-day session to acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly. Therefore the 1st meeting of the preparatory body is scheduled to take place from 26 to 27 March 1997, after the Commission has completed its activities as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council and as governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Item 1

For the special segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, during which it will act as preparatory body for the special session, the Commission will have to elect new, or confirm existing, officers. New elections will be required because the composition of the Commission will change as it undertakes its role as preparatory body. This is because the Commission when acting as the preparatory body should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations. Thus, the Commission will continue to function under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), but the members of the Commission when it is acting as the preparatory body will be all the Member States of the United Nations. Therefore, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Commission should elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required. The Commission when acting as the preparatory body should elect its bureau from among the representatives of all Member States of the United Nations. The Commission will be free to elect as many officers as it deems advisable. If the Commission decides to follow its usual practice, the bureau of the preparatory body will also consist of one chairman, three vice-chairmen and one rapporteur. The Commission acting as preparatory body will also be free to decide whether to elect new officers or to maintain the bureau elected for the regular segment of its session. If the Commission decides to elect new officers, it should be borne in mind that an officer elected for the regular segment of the fortieth session of the Commission may also be elected for the preparatory body.

The normal practice of a preparatory body for a major United Nations conference, analogous to the special session of the General Assembly, is to maintain its officers throughout the period of activity of the preparatory process in order to ensure continuity with respect to its work. That position was also supported at informal consultations with permanent missions to the United Nations at Vienna, during which there was consensus that the officers of the bureau of the preparatory body should remain in office for all meetings of that body up to the

holding of the special session. In that case, unless the Commission decides otherwise, the usual rotation of officers will still take place in the regular segment of the forty-first session of the Commission, while the bureau of the special segment will remain unchanged.

Item 2

After the election of its bureau, the preparatory body will adopt its agenda and timetable for the current session and will address other organizational matters. It will therefore be called upon to decide how it wishes to organize its work for the first session, including considering the establishment of working groups if so required. The preparatory body will need to divide its time between substantive and procedural questions, placing emphasis on the latter at its first session.

In addition, the preparatory body will need to consider its agenda and timetable for its second session. It may wish to ascertain whether any inter-sessional meetings will be needed or whether other specific activities will be required between its first and second sessions. The draft provisional agenda for the second session of the preparatory body, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on the preparations for and possible outcome of the special session of the General Assembly (A/51/469, para. 24), is reproduced in the report of the Executive Director on procedural issues to be considered in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/1997/PC/2).

The preparatory body should review that proposal with a view to determining what adjustments, if any, are called for. In particular, it may wish to confirm that a single report will be prepared reflecting both its first and second sessions, together with any inter-sessional activity that needs to be reported on. That approach would seem advisable because of the extremely short time-frame for the first session. Procedural matters examined at the first session of the preparatory body that will require action by the General Assembly before the second session could be included in draft recommendations to be transmitted to the Assembly for its consideration.

Item 3

Item 3 consists of two distinct elements: procedural matters, which need to be acted on by the General Assembly in order to move forward with preparations for organizing the special session, and substantive matters, which relate to issues that require attention and action by the Assembly in order to ensure a positive outcome of the special session.

Procedural matters

The preparatory body should consider making recommendations on the following paying due regard to the rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly: the exact title, draft provisional agenda and dates of the special session; the composition of the bureau; the establishment of an ad hoc committee; and the membership of the Credentials Committee and of the General Committee.

A document prepared by the Secretariat containing draft recommendations on these matters will be before the Commission to assist it in its consideration of item 3.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/64, recognized the need for the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in preparations for the special session in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session. The preparatory body may wish to consider ways to respond to General Assembly resolution 51/64 in that regard.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on procedural issues to be considered in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.7/1997/PC/2)

Substantive matters

The outcome of the three-day special session of the General Assembly will largely be governed by the substantive issues that the Assembly will consider during that session. For example, the updating of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (General Assembly resolution S-17/2) and the adoption of a declaration on the guiding principles for the reduction of illicit drug demand, which have been suggested, will clearly require an in-depth evaluation of a number of issues. The Commission is called on to assist the General Assembly in identifying both the possible outcome of the special session and the issues to be examined to achieve that outcome.

The Secretary-General, in his report on preparations for and possible outcome of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control (A/51/469), identified the following issues that could form the basis for the deliberations at the special session: the review of the international drug control instruments; the prevention of diversion of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs; the strengthening of measures against the abuse of and trafficking in stimulants; the reduction of the illicit demand for drugs; the prevention of and action against money-laundering; illicit crop eradication and alternative development; judicial cooperation; coordination in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against illicit arms trade; and the strengthening of the United Nations machinery for international drug control.

In the report of the Executive Director on substantive issues to be considered by the General Assembly at its special session (E/CN.7/1997/PC/3), all issues currently being suggested for review will be grouped under five main headings: (a) review of implementation of the Global Programme of Action; (b) adherence to and the implementation of the international drug control treaties (including judicial cooperation, the prevention of precursor diversion, the increased control of stimulants and the prevention of and sanctions against money-laundering); (c) the reduction of illicit drug demand; (d) illicit crop eradication and alternative development; and (e) the strengthening of international cooperation.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on substantive issues to be considered by the General Assembly at its special session (E/CN.7/1997/PC/3)

Provisional timetable

Wednesday, 26 March 1997

1st meeting 10 a.m-1 p.m.	*Item 1.* Election of officers *Item 2.* Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters *Item 3.* Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking

2nd meeting — *Item 3.* (continued)
3-6 p.m.

Thursday, 27 March 1997

3rd meeting — *Item 3.* (continued)
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

4th meeting — *Item 3.* (continued)
3-6 p.m.

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OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION,
SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC
SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
First session
Vienna, 26-27 March 1997
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Procedural issues to be considered in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Executive Director

*E/CN.7/1997/PC.1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/64, section IV, decided to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs.

2. In the same section of its resolution 51/64, the General Assembly decided that the special session should be held for three days in June 1998, immediately after the necessary preparatory work had been done to ensure its success and 10 years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[1] The Assembly also decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should act as the preparatory body for the special session and that the deliberations of the preparatory body should be open-ended, allowing for full participation of all States members of the United Nations and of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice.

I. ISSUES RELATING TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WHICH THE PREPARATORY BODY MIGHT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY

A. Draft provisional agenda

3. The preparatory body should make recommendations on the draft provisional agenda for the special session of the General Assembly. Elements that could be included in the draft provisional agenda for the special session, in accordance with the objectives outlined in Assembly resolution 51/64, section IV, and with established practice, are contained in annex I.

B. Title of the special session

4. The preparatory body may wish to recommend a title for the special session. The draft title currently being used, "special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities", derives from Assembly resolution 51/64, section IV.

C. Date and duration

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/64, section IV, the special session will be held for three days in June 1998. The preparatory body may wish to recommend specific dates in June 1998, bearing in mind the availability of conference and interpretation facilities at Headquarters.

D. President

6. The Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly recommended that that session should take place under the presidency of the President of the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly. The preparatory body for the upcoming special session may wish to recommend that that special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

E. Vice-presidents

7. Following the precedent of the seventeenth special session, the preparatory body may wish to recommend that the vice-presidents of the upcoming special session should be the same as those of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that the regional groups may make substitutions of the vice-presidents allocated to each group.

F. Ad hoc committee

8. The preparatory body may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it should establish an ad hoc committee of the special session. Such a committee was established for the seventeenth special session. At that special session the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee served in the same capacities in the ad hoc committee. Should the preparatory body decide to recommend the establishment of an ad hoc committee of the upcoming special session, the same officers of the preparatory body could be officers of the ad hoc committee. In addition, the preparatory body may wish to recommend allocating to the ad hoc committee some items of the provisional agenda for the special session.

G. Credentials Committee

9. Following the practice of the preparatory committee for the seventeenth special session, the preparatory body for the upcoming special session may wish to recommend to the General Assembly that the Credentials Committee of the special session should have the same membership as the Credentials Committee of the fifty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

H. General Committee

10. The preparatory body may wish to recommend that, following established practice, the General Committee of the special session should consist of the President of the special session of the General Assembly and the 21 vice-presidents and the chairmen of the seven Main Committees of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that they may be substituted by members of their delegations or members of delegations of States belonging to the same regional group and of the chairman of the ad hoc committee of the special session, if such a committee is established.

I. Participation of non-governmental organizations

11. In its resolution 51/64, section IV, the General Assembly recognized the need for the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session. The preparatory body may wish to defer consideration of this matter to enable it to take advantage of any arrangements made for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the context of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of Agenda 21,[2] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992.

12. Following the precedent of the seventeen special session, the preparatory body may wish to recommend that non-governmental organizations should designate one representative who would present a statement on behalf of all interested non-governmental organizations in the ad hoc committee, should such a committee be established, and that the duration of the presentation should not exceed 10 minutes.

J. Rules of procedure

13. Following established practice, the preparatory body may wish to recommend that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly should apply at the special session.

II. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY BODY

14. The preparatory body may also wish to consider the draft provisional agenda for its second session. The following elements could be considered for inclusion in the draft provisional agenda:

Draft provisional agenda for the second session of the preparatory body

1. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale , demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and

related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

3. Adoption of the report of the preparatory body on its first and second sessions.

Notes

[1]*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2]*Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

Annex

ELEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*Note*: Specific items are to be determined by the preparatory body for the special session.]

1. Opening of the special session.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President.

5. Report of the preparatory body for the special session.

6. Organization of the special session.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

8. General debate.

9. Review of the international drug control instruments:

   (a) Functioning of the international drug control treaties;

   (b) Review of General Assembly resolution S-17/2, adopted by the Assembly at its seventeenth special session, in particular progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action annexed thereto.

10. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in drug control, in particular:

    (a) Prevention of diversion of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

    (b) Strengthening measures against the abuse of and trafficking in stimulants;

    (c) Reduction of the illicit demand for drugs;

    (d) Prevention of and action against money-laundering;

    (e) Illicit crops eradication and alternative development;

    (f) Judicial cooperation;

    (g) Coordination in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against illicit arms trade.

11. Review of the international drug control regime: the role of the United Nations in drug control.

12. Views and matters pertaining to the special session, transmitted by specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system.

13. Adoption of the final documents of the special session:

    (a) Political declaration and revised Global Programme of Action;

    (b) Declaration on the guiding principles for the reduction of illicit drug demand.

14. Follow-up measures for the implementation of the final documents adopted by the special session.

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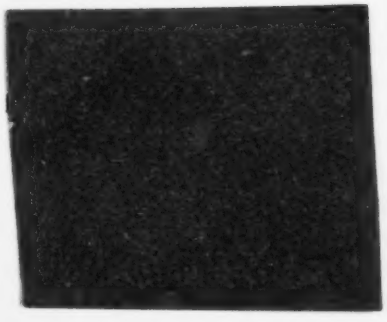
First session
Vienna, 26-27 March 1997
Item 3 of the provisional agenda



PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Substantive issues to be considered by the General Assembly at its special session

Report of the Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/64, section IV, decided, *inter alia*, "to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and special measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs". It will be the task of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the preparatory body for the special session, to identify more precisely the issues to be considered at the special session, taking into account the guidance provided in that resolution. The Assembly, in the same section of that resolution, stressed that the special session should "be devoted to assessing the existing situation within the framework of a comprehensive and balanced approach that includes all aspects of the problem, with a view to strengthening international cooperation ..., and within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[1] and other relevant conventions and international instruments". In particular, it should review progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action adopted at its seventeenth special session, on 23 February 1990.[2] Several specific objectives linked to the overall purpose of the special session were identified.

2. The issues to be considered at the special session can be viewed as consisting of several interrelated elements. First, an assessment will need to be made of the existing situation. The touchstone for this analysis could be the review of the progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action. Secondly, adherence to the international drug control treaties and their full implementation by all States should be advanced by the special session. Three of the specific objectives identified in the General Assembly resolution are closely tied to implementation of the 1988 Convention: increased cooperation to contribute to the application of the law; prevention of diversion of chemicals used in illicit drug production and strengthening of control of stimulants and their precursors; and prevention of and sanctions for money-laundering. Thirdly, policies for the control of drug abuse and other measures to reduce the illicit demand for drugs should be adopted and promoted, including at the international level. Fourthly, international cooperation to develop programmes to eradicate illicit crops and to promote alternative development should be encouraged. Fifthly, the adoption of measures to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against the illicit arms trade is envisaged. Each of these aspects are addressed in the present report.

3. The Commission may wish to identify those issues which will need to be further elaborated during the inter-sessional period to enable preparation of a specific proposal on the substantive outcome of the special session to be considered by the Commission at its forty-first session. It should be recalled that the General Assembly has also invited the organs, organizations and specialized agencies in the United Nations system, including multilateral development banks, to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session. In particular, they have been invited to submit to the Commission, as the preparatory body for the special session, through the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), concrete recommendations on the issues to be addressed.

I. REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

4. The implementation of the Global Programme of Action is under continuous review. Reports were prepared by the Secretary-General on implementation of the Global Programme of Action and submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/48/286, A/49/352, A/50/460 and A/51/436). The present review could be supplemented by a succinct analysis of recent and emerging trends in the abuse of and trafficking in drugs. Building upon the analyses already completed, the special session could take stock of the efforts of Governments, international organizations and civil society in implementing the Global Programme of Action. The continued relevance and relative priority of the various activities could be assessed, and an inventory of successful and less successful initiatives prepared. Gaps and overlapping activities could be pinpointed, and new activities, a more rational division of labour and corrective action to remove impediments to effective implementation adopted.

5. Although such a review would need to be comprehensive, it would not be possible to give equal weight to all issues. The review could thus focus on those issues identified by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/64, as summarized in the present report. This review would act as a benchmark for future action, including further measures to be adopted or recommended by the General Assembly at the special session.

II. ADHERENCE TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL TREATIES

6. The special session will be an occasion to reaffirm the importance of the international drug control treaties. It should contribute to mustering the political will to increase the number of States parties to the treaties, and to advance their full implementation. The Assembly could adopt a political declaration for this purpose. Such a declaration should not, however, be limited to the international drug control treaties, but rather be broad enough to cover all needed action, including that not specifically covered by the treaties. Three specific objectives relating to full implementation of the 1988 Convention are considered further below.

A. Judicial cooperation

7. The 1988 Convention envisages wide-ranging cooperation between States in applying the legal measures enumerated in the Convention to apprehend drug traffickers, to secure their conviction and punishment and to trace, freeze and confiscate illicit proceeds. Since the negotiation of the 1988 Convention, many States have modernized their legislation to implement the provisions of that Convention. In addition, many bilateral and regional agreements have been negotiated to further the extradition of drug traffickers, to facilitate the exchange of evidence and to increase cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

8. The Assembly could assess the extent to which Governments have been effectively implementing the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention and other measures designed to enhance judicial cooperation. It

could identify how such cooperation could be improved, including specific measures that could be adopted by States. The Assembly might explore whether new measures to complement the 1988 Convention might be recommended, such as measures to protect judges, prosecutors and witnesses from threats and intimidation, and new investigative techniques, such as court-supervised interceptions of communications, monitoring of accounts at financial institutions and undercover operations. In addition, although the confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking is one of the most effective tools to undermine drug-trafficking organizations, it has been little used. Measures to simplify confiscation proceedings, harmonize procedures and increase international cooperation might be proposed. The International Narcotics Control Board, in chapter I of its report for 1996,[3] makes a number of recommendations on measures to improve the efficiency of criminal justice systems to prevent and control the illicit supply and consumption of drugs. The Assembly might consider adopting measures based on those recommendations.

B. Prevention of diversion of chemicals used in illicit drug production and strengthening control of stimulants and their precursors

9. The provisions of the 1988 Convention aimed at preventing the diversion of precursors have been supplemented by recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission, the Board and the Chemical Action Task Force established by the Heads of State or Government of the seven major industrialized countries. The Assembly could assess the current status of implementation by Governments of the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention, in particular article 12, and the various recommendations supplementing that Convention. It could then identify priority actions at the international and national level that may be required to strengthen controls over precursors in order to prevent their diversion to illicit channels and to apprehend international traffickers of precursors through advanced techniques such as controlled delivery.

10. Areas that might be explored include recommendations on making better use of pre-export notification for substances in Table I of the 1988 Convention and on the possibility of introducing pre-export notifications for substances in Table II. Consideration might also be given to the development of an import and export authorization system. Measures might also be considered to improve the collection of information on the licit uses and movement of precursors and to develop a system for sharing such information.

11. The problem of the abuse of and trafficking in stimulants has been increasing in recent years and has now reached a global scale. This alarming situation has galvanized Governments and international organizations to act against this menace. Of particular note is the recent Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants, organized by UNDCP and held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996. The Expert Meeting examined the nature and extent of the global problem and recommended concrete measures to tackle it. The report of the Expert Meeting, containing its conclusions and recommendations, is before the Commission (E/CN.7/1997/6). The special session could consider the growing problem of stimulants and the recommendations emanating from the Expert Meeting. It could identify what additional measures may be required at both the international and national level to tackle the problem, and recommend the adoption of those measures by Governments.

C. Prevention of and sanctions for money-laundering

12. The tracing and seizing of illicit proceeds is today widely recognized as being an effective weapon in the fight against drug trafficking and other organized criminal activity. The 1988 Convention provides the foundation for international cooperation to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking by requiring parties to establish as offences in their domestic law the laundering of such proceeds and to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of such offences. In addition, the 1988 Convention requires parties to enact legislation that allows them to confiscate the proceeds and instrumentalities of drug-trafficking offences and to cooperate with one another in the identification, seizing, freezing and confiscation of such proceeds and

instrumentalities. Since the negotiation of the 1988 Convention, a number of measures have been identified by States, regional groups and other organizations, such as the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force established by the Heads of State or Government of the seven major industrialized countries (Group of Seven) and the President of the European Communities, to enable States to prevent their financial institutions from being used to launder money. In addition, chapter I of the report of the Board for 1995[4] contains a number of specific recommendations on action against money-laundering. Those measures might be harmonized and made universal by their adoption by the Assembly at its special session.

III. REDUCTION OF ILLICIT DEMAND

13. The General Assembly, the Council and the Commission have all called for increased attention to be given to demand reduction. This issue should therefore be viewed as one of the main focuses of the special session. The major outcome of the special session in this regard could be a declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction, currently being drafted under the auspices of the Commission pursuant to Council resolutions 1995/16 and 1996/18. It should be recalled that the Commission at its thirty-ninth session decided that the objective should be to ensure that the draft declaration would be ready for adoption by the special session. A report on the progress made by the working group with expertise in demand reduction established by the Commission to assist in this process is before the Commission (E/CN.7/1997/CRP.4). In addition, the special session may also consider what action would be necessary to implement the declaration.

IV. ERADICATION OF ILLICIT CROPS AND ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

14. The eradication of illicit crops is a basic tool to reduce illicit cultivation. The General Assembly could assess the current use and availability of methods to identify illicit crops and the use of environmentally safe and effective methods to eradicate them. It could identify measures to increase access to accurate and cost-effective techniques to identify illicit crops. It could also consider how best to promote the use of safe and effective techniques to eradicate illicit crops.

15. Over a period of several decades alternative development as a means of reducing illicit cultivation has come to be widely recognized by the international community as an indispensable component of the international drug-control strategy. The methodologies and approaches used for alternative development have been elaborated and refined over a number of years through the implementation of a series of projects by Governments supported by the international community. While these methodologies and approaches have demonstrated their effectiveness, experience has shown that the application of these techniques must be supported by sufficient political will, enforcement measures and appropriate governmental policies and institutions, as well as adequate financial resources in order to ensure their long-term impact and sustainability. The General Assembly could consider what additional measures may be required to encourage the Governments concerned to take the need for alternative development into account when defining their overall economic strategies. In parallel, measures might be designed to ensure that the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, attaches priority to coordinating sustainable development cooperation programmes and investments that directly or indirectly support alternative development initiatives, and that Member States act in a coordinated manner in the governing bodies of all relevant parts of the system. Beneficiary countries should also call on the international and regional financial institutions and development aid organizations in negotiating loans and grants to incorporate drug-control objectives in their development programmes.

V. STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

16. In its resolution 51/64, the General Assembly specifically recognized the need for strengthening coordination within the United Nations system to fight drug trafficking and related organized crime, terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and the illicit arms trade. The General Assembly could assess the extent of these interrelated problems, as well as the measures currently employed to fight international drug-related crime. It could then consider what additional measures would enhance international cooperation in this important area. In particular, the roles and responsibility of the main United Nations bodies and organizations involved in this fight could be examined with a view to rationalizing functions, strengthening coordination and providing adequate resources for the task.

17. In addition to enhanced cooperation within the system in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and the illicit arms trade, international cooperation is vital to all aspects of drug control, including demand reduction and alternative development. The international community has come to recognize, as is often repeated in the Commission and the General Assembly, that drug abuse and drug trafficking have become truly global problems, and that only a concerted global response can be effective. This concern has been matched - or even exceeded - by increasing expectations placed in the United Nations. The Commission and UNDCP are continuously challenged to become ever more effective, increasing the range, quality and quantity of their work. The General Assembly could thus consider whether the international drug control machinery in place is adequate to meet these emerging challenges, and what changes, if any, in institutional arrangements and approaches could be considered in light of the reform measures of the United Nations.

18. In order to reinforce the United Nations machinery for drug control, the General Assembly, in the deliberations at its special session, could consider how best to reinforce the advocacy and leadership role of UNDCP. Measures to ensure that UNDCP has adequate human and financial resources to serve as a global centre of expertise and source of technical cooperation could be adopted. In addition, Member States could commit themselves to providing a more solid, broader-based system of support for international cooperation in drug control through active participation in the activities of UNDCP. The special session could also result in the revitalization of the intergovernmental drug-control machinery, in order to coordinate international drug-control policy more effectively and to provide policy and managerial guidance to UNDCP, including the possible use of subsidiary organs of the Commission.

Notes

[1]*Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988,* vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[2]See resolution S-17/2, annex.

[3]*Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XI.3).

[4]*Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XI.1).

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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS
PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION,
SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC
SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
First informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting
Vienna, 7-9 July 1997

OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants

3. Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs

4. Other matters

5. Report on the outcome of proceedings

V.97-23516

Annotations

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to take place in June 1998, held its first session from 26 to 27 March 1997, during which it decided to hold informal open-ended inter-sessional meetings from 7 to 9 July and 7 to 9 October 1997 and on 5 December 1997.

At the first session of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session, it was agreed that the following issues would be considered during the preparatory process: reaffirmation of the political commitment of Governments to international drug control; demand reduction, in particular adoption of the draft declaration on the guiding principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs and proposals for implementation; and (a) measures to counter illicit manufacture of, traffic in and abuse of stimulants, (b) measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation, (d) measures to counter money-laundering, and (e) eradication of illicit crops and alternative development.

The inter-sessional meetings will not be called upon to examine in detail the question of demand reduction in view of the fact that a separate timetable has been established by the Commission for work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs. The results will be available in a progress report to the third inter-sessional meeting in December, and will then be reported to the Commission acting at its second session as preparatory body for the special session.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The officers of the first inter-sessional meeting will be the same as for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting at its first session as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control.

2. Measures to counter illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of stimulants

Alarmed by the rapid and widespread increase in the illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, and mindful of the economic and social consequences thereof, an expert meeting organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996. During that meeting, the nature and extent of the problem were examined and a set of countermeasures to tackle the problem were suggested. In response to a mandate derived from Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/20, the countermeasures and a report reflecting the discussions of the expert meeting at Shanghai was presented to the Commission at its fortieth session (E/CN.7/1997/6).

After consideration of the report, the Commission approved draft resolution VI entitled "Implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors", to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

By that resolution, the Council would, *inter alia*, request the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop the recommendations of the expert meeting into an appropriate format for consideration by the Commission at its forty-first session, with a view to making recommendations for endorsement by the General Assembly at its special session. To that end, the first inter-sessional meeting could, in addition to considering the growing problem of stimulants and the proposed countermeasures emanating from the

expert meeting, guide UNDCP on the most appropriate format and level of detail of the countermeasures to tackle the problem, and recommend to the special session the adoption of those countermeasures.

Documentation:

Countermeasures against illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.3).

3. Measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs

The first inter-sessional meeting could review the current status of implementation by Governments of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 1/ aimed at preventing the diversion of precursors, which have been supplemented by recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant forums, including the Chemical Action Task Force established by the Heads of State or Government of the seven major industrialized countries (Group of Seven).

In draft resolution VI the Council would, *inter alia*, request Governments to verify the legitimacy of individual transactions involving precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants listed in Table I and, where possible, those listed in Table II of the 1988 Convention, and to take appropriate action to protect the legitimate interests of those industries cooperating in inquiries to certify the legitimacy of transactions involving precursors. Furthermore, the Council would request Governments of States exporting precursors listed in Tables I and II of the 1988 Convention, prior to permitting shipments to proceed, to inquire with the authorities of importing States about the legitimacy of transactions of concern, to inform the Board of the action taken, and to take steps to initiate a cooperative, rapid and effective exchange of information concerning stopped or canceled shipments.

Previous Council resolutions relevant to the implementation by Governments of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (1996/29, 1995/20, 1993/40, 1992/29) have endorsed related recommendations proposed by the International Narcotics Control Board and meetings of other international bodies. Those resolutions have requested Governments to take a number of specific measures applicable to the monitoring and control of all substances listed in the Tables of the 1988 Convention.

The first inter-sessional meeting could therefore assist the special session in considering viable options for control, identifying the necessary priority actions at the international and national level, and exploring measures, in the form of recommendations, to strengthen controls over precursors, in order to prevent their diversion to illicit channels and to apprehend international traffickers of precursors through the use of techniques such as controlled delivery. Furthermore, it could consider the advisability of developing an import and export authorization system, as well as a system for the collection and sharing of information on the licit uses and movement of precursors.

Documentation

Options for control in preventing diversion of precursors and chemicals into the illicit manufacture of drugs (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.4).

4. Other matters

At the present time, no other matters requiring action at the first informal inter-sessional meeting have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

5. Report on the outcome of proceedings

Because of the informal nature of the meeting and the limited time available for deliberations, the Commission may wish to adopt a simplified reporting system by instructing the rapporteur to produce a final version after the meeting. The report will be before the Commission at its second session as preparatory body, to be held from 27 February to 5 March 1998.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol.I, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).